LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a host application running on a host system in a process plant, wherein the host system is connected to ~~one of~~ a plurality of process control devices used in the process plant, the method comprising:

sending a first command from the host system to ~~the~~ a particular one of ~~a~~the plurality of process control devices ~~within said plurality of process control devices~~ to request a device description identification ~~for~~ identifying a device description associated with the particular one of the plurality of process control devices, wherein the device description identification includes at least one of a device identifier, a manufacturer ID, or a device revision for identifying the device description associated with the particular one of the plurality of process control devices, and wherein the device description comprises data and operating procedures for the particular one of the plurality of process control devices, including at least one of variables, methods, commands, menus or display formats associated with one or more features of the particular one of the plurality of process control ~~device~~ devices;

receiving the device description identification at the host system from the particular one of the plurality of process control ~~device~~ devices;

downloading a device description associated with the device description identification into the host system using the device description identification; and

updating the host application to include ~~the device description~~the data and operating procedures for the particular one of the plurality of process control devices, described in the device description.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading the device description includes downloading the device description from one of a CD-ROM, a diskette, and an online database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein updating the host application includes copying the device description into the host application.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the host system is a system in a process plant and the ~~device~~ particular one of the plurality of devices is one of a plurality of process control devices used in the process plant.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including searching for the device description- on the host system based on the device description identification.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading the device description includes:

connecting the host system to a communication network;

requesting the device description from a device description database connected to the communication network; and

receiving the device description from the device description database.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the device description database is one of a Fieldbus database, a Profibus database and a HART communication foundation database.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein downloading the device description includes storing an Internet address of the device description database and using one of an Internet communication protocol and a wireless communication protocol to connect to the device description database.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a software update for a host application running on a host system, the method comprising:

storing a first device description identification identifying a ~~first~~ device description on a ~~first~~ process control device, the device description identification including at least one of a device identifier, a manufacturer ID, or a device revision, for identifying the device description, and the device description defining data and operating procedures for the process control device including at least one of variables, methods, commands, or menus of display formats associated with one or more features of the process control device;

sending a ~~first~~ command to the ~~first~~ process control device to request the ~~first~~ device description identification, wherein the ~~first~~ device description is used to communicate with the ~~first~~ process control device;

receiving the ~~first~~ device description identification at the host system from the ~~first~~ process control device;

determining if the host system includes the ~~first~~ device description using the ~~first~~ device description identification;

automatically downloading the ~~first~~ device description onto the host system if the host system does not have the ~~first device~~ description; and

updating the host application with the data and operating procedures for the process control device described in the ~~first~~ device description.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further including storing the ~~first~~ device description ~~information~~ identification on the host system.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further including storing the ~~first~~ device description identification, determining if the host system is connected to the Internet, initiating an Internet session if the host system is connected to the Internet, and sending a request to a device description database connected to the Internet for downloading the ~~first~~ device description onto the host system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including storing on the host system a list relating an identification of a device manufacturer to an Internet address of a device description database provided by the device manufacturer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the host application is one of (1) an asset management system application, (2) a plant simulation application, (3) a plant maintenance application, (4) a plant monitoring application, and (5) a process control application.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system for updating a process control host application with a device description of a process control device, the device description comprising data and operating procedures for the process control device including at least one of variables, methods, commands, menus or display formats associated with one or more features of the process control device, the computer system being connected to a device description database via a communication network, the computer system comprising:

a processing unit;

a computer readable memory; and

a software routine stored on the computer readable memory and executable on the processing unit to:

request a device description identification identifying a device description for the

process control device from ~~a~~ the process control device;

receive the device description identification related to the process control device from the process control device, the device description identification including at least one of a device identifier, a manufacturer ID, or a device revision, for identifying the device description;

download the device description of the process control device from the device description database using the device description identification~~,~~; and

update the host application with the data and operating procedures for the process control device described in the device description.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the software routine is further executable on the processing unit to download the device description using one of an Internet protocol and a wireless communication protocol.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the software routine is further executable on the processing unit to identify a device description language source of the host application, interpret the device description into the device description language source and insert the device description into the host application.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the host application is one of (1) an asset management system application, (2) a plant simulation application, (3) a plant maintenance application, (4) a plant monitoring application, and (5) a process control application.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, wherein the software routine is further adapted to update a remote host application located on a remote computer communicatively connected to the computer system.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system for use in a process plant having a plurality of process control devices and one or more process applications requiring communication with the plurality of process control devices, the computer system comprising:

a computer readable medium on which computer instructions are stored, when executed by a computer processor the computer instructions providing:

a communication module operable to request a device description identification associated with one of the plurality of process control devices ~~of said plurality process control devices~~ from the one of the plurality of process control ~~device~~ devices, wherein the device description comprises data and operating procedures for the one of the plurality of process control devices including at least one of variables, methods, commands, menus or display formats associated with one or more features of the one of the plurality of process control devices;

a storage device operable to receive the device description identification from the one of the plurality of process control ~~device~~ devices and store the device description identification, wherein the device description identification includes at least one of a device identifier, a manufacturer ID, or adevice revision, for identifying the device description;

a search module operable to search for a device description database storing the device description identified by the device description identification;

a downloading module operable to download a device description from the device description database; and

an updating module operable to update one of the one or more process applications with the data and operating procedures for the one of the plurality of process control devices described in the device description.

20. (Original) The computer system of claim 19, wherein the downloading module communicates with the device description database using the Internet protocol.